

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 AID-05 INT-05 EB-07 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 L-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /040 W

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R 161112Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1144

INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA

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ALSO FOR AID/CER/CFS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, SOCI, EAID, TGEN, NI, US

SUBJECT: NEW CAPITAL: AMERICAN PLANNERS AND USGS EXTENSION

REF: (A) STATE 100286, (B) LAGOS 5187, (C) KADUNA 501

SUMMARY: AMERICAN MASTER PLANNERS HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR NEW CAPITAL CITY BUT PUBLICITY MUST AWAIT CONTRACT SIGNING MID-JUNE. EBONG DESIRES EXTEND USGS CONTRACT, HEAPING PRAISE ON MAPPING TEAM IN TERRITORY.

1. I.J. EBONG, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FEDERAL CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA), GAVE LUNCHEON MAY 14 FOR CDA QTE CONSULTANTS, INTERNATIONAL PLANNING ASSOCIATES UNQTE, THUS PUBLICLY IDENTIFYING THIS PHILADELPHIA-BASED CONSORTIUM AS MASTER PLANNERS FOR NIGERIA'S NEW CAPITAL CITY. HOWEVER, CONTRACT ITSELF MUST BE APPROVED BY CDA BOARD AND BY FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (FEC) SO WILL NOT BE SIGNED UNTIL MID-JUNE. UNTIL THEN USG SHOULD AVOID PUBLICITY AND REMAIN SILENT ON MATTER, REFERRING QUESTIONS TO CDA. UNTIL CONTRACT ACTUALLY SIGNED COMPETITORS COULD DERAIL IT.

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2. LUNCHEON INCLUDED IPA'S PRIME MOVER, R.K. PARKER (RKP INTERNATIONAL) AND CHIEF PLANNER, ABRAAM KRUSHKHOV OF ARCHISYSTEMS, LOS ANGELES, PLUS REPS OF OTHER MAIN ELEMENTS, PLANNING RESEARCH CORP. (PRC) AND WALLACE, MCHARG, ROBERTS AND TODD. THEY SAID CONTRACT TERMS AGREED LAST WEEK AND NOW GO TO CDA BOARD AND FED FOR APPROVAL, WITH SIGNING ENVISIONED ABOUT JUNE 18 AND WORK TO START JULY.

3. UNSURE WHETHER THIS GOOD OR BAD NEWS, BUT DURING LUNCHEON AN ELATED EBONG TOLD EMBOFF HE WANTS TO EXTEND U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY'S (USGS) CONTRACT TO QTE NEXT PHASE UNQTE (UNDEFINED), STATING MAPPING TEAM IN TERRITORY AND ALL USGS PERSONNEL CONCERNED HERE AND IN US HAVE DONE OUTSTANDING JOB, SENTIMENT WE ENDORSE FULLY. (HE ALSO SAID CDA AND NOT USGS WOULD HOST LUNCHEON MENTIONED PARA 3 REF C.)

DOMMENT: DETAILS OF EXTENSION NOT RPT NOT DISCUSSED BUT, DEPENDING ON SIZE OF USGS PRESENCE HERE, BASIC AGREEMENT MAY HAVE TO BE REVISED.

4. EBONG ALSO PRAISED CHARLES CONRAD, NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION, SAYING THAT AS MEMBER JOS EXPERT PANEL JUDGING PLANNER PROPOSALS (LAGOS 1066) HE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY OBJECTIVE.

5. LUNCHEON ALSO INCLUDED NEWLY-APPOINTED CDA PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE DIRECTOR DENNIS BROWN, PERSONABLE ENGLISHMAN WHO CURRENTLY IS PLANNING OFFICIAL FOR HAMMERSMITH, LONDON. HE STARTS WITH CDA SEPTEMBER. COMMENT: POST OF ENGINEERING DIRECTOR (STATE 83855 AND PREVIOUS) STILL UNFILLED. CDA STILL HAS ONLY FIVE SENIOR OFFICIALS AND ENCOUNTERING OFFICE AND HOUSING SPACE SHORTAGE.

6. COMMENT: COMPETITION TO SHOW NO RELATION TO USG. WITHOUT MAKING ISSUE OF IT WE BEAUEVE SEVERAL ELEMENTS USG ASSISTED, APPARENTLY WITHOUT IPA KNOWLEDGE: AF/W, AID/W, USGS, OC/T. APOLOGIES TO THOSE UN-NAMED. EVEN PANAM HELPED GET PROPOSALS HERE ON TIME. EMBASSY SUCCESSFULLY SUGGESTED TO EBONG THAT HE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACCEPT AMERICAN PROPOSALS IN WASHINGTON, RATHER THAN HERE, GIVING FIRMS TWO EXTRA WEEKS, AND INTRODUCED PRC TO EBONG (PRC REP WAS RICHARD WALBRECKER, WHO WE UNDERSTAND NO LONGER WITH PRC.) PARKER OF RKP ALSO INSTRUMENTAL, BEING FIRST TO CONTACT EBONG EARLY LAST YEAR AND INTRODUCE HIM TO ARCHISYSTEMS, WHICH EBONG VISITED DURING US TOUR.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: INFORM USGS GIST PARA 3 ABOVE TO ENABLE PRIOR PREPARATION.
EASUM

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Message Attributes

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